

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PALERM 00930 281443Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 /067 W
-----022889 281444Z /43

P 280900Z DEC 77
FM AMCONSUL PALERMO
TO COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK PRIORITY
NAVSUPPACT NAPLES IT PRIORITY
COMSERVFORSIXTHFLT PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2322

C O N F I D E N T I A L PALERMO 0930

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MMOL, IT
SUBJECT: US NAVY SHIP REPARIS AT PALERMO

REFS: (A) COMSIXTHFLT 220716Z NOV 77, (B) ROME 18841
(C) PALERMO 776

1. INCREASING FREQUENCY OF REPAIR VISITS TO PALERMO BY U.S. NAVAL VESSELS (REF C)N DECEMBER 21 VISIT TO DOCKYARD BY COMSERVFORSIXTHFLT, AND REFERENCES MADE TO SUBJECT BOTH DURING AND AFTER AMBASSADOR'S VISIT HAVE PROMPTED SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE FUTURE SHIP-REPAIR VISITS IN DECEMBER 27 EDITION OF PALERMO DAILY "GIORNALE DI SICILIA". NEWSPAPER SUGGESTS THAT RUMORS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING WITH A "CERTAIN CONSISTENCY" FOR SOME FIFTEEN DAYS AMONG PALERMO LABOR AND POLITICAL CIRCLES TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UNITED STATES NAVY WILL USE THE PALERMO DOCKYARD FOR THE REPAIR OF SIXTH FLEET VESSELS. THE "GIORNALE" NOTES THAT SUCH RUMORS HAVE NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED AND SUGGESTS THAT LOCAL TRADE UNION OFFICIALS ARE SEEKING SUCH CONFIRMATION THROUGH NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
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IN ROME.

2. WE HAVE NOT TO DATE BEEN CONTACTED ABOUT ABOVE SPECULATION, BUT BELIEVE IT COULD BE PLACED IN PROPER CONTEXT IF WE AND/OR OTHER ADDRESSEES WERE TO MAKE BRIEF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BASED ON REF A AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: THE UNITED STATES NAVY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT DOES PLAN TO CONTINUE BRINGING VESSELS OF THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET TO THE CANTIERI NAVALI OF PALERMO FOR NEEDED MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS. SINCE APRIL 1977, SOME SEVEN U.S. NAVAL VESSELS HAVE UNDERGONE REPAIRS AT THE CANTIERI NAVALI, AND PLANS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1978 CALL FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE SIXTH FLEET VESSELS TO UNDERGO WORK AT THE DOCKYARD. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH PLANS ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE, BUT THEY DO REPRESENT AN INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE U.S. NAVY IN EXPANDING ITS USE OF THE PALERMO FACILITY. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO PROJECT EXACT AMOUNTS AT THIS TIME, CERTAINLY PAYMENTS FOR REPAIRS AND EXPENDITURES BOTH FOR SUPPLIES AND BY U.S. NAVY PERSONNEL WHILE THEY ARE IN PALERMO SHOULD MAKE A WELCOME CONTRIBUTION TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY. END TEXT.

3. IF ADDRESSEES AGREE, WE WOULD PLAN TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN PLACING ABOVE RELEASE, OR ANY VARIANT ADDRESSEES WOULD PREFER, WITH LOCAL MEDIA. RELEASE WOULD ALSO SERVE SHOULD THIS QUESTION ARISE AT NATIONAL LEVEL AS SUGGESTED BY LOCAL PRESS.

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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